

T. De Witt Talmage Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013010>

Collection Summary

Title: T. De Witt Talmage Papers

Span Dates: 1831-1902

ID No.: MSS42283

Creator: Talmage, T. De Witt (Thomas De Witt), 1832-1902

Extent: 2,300 items ; 33 containers ; 13.3 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Presbyterian clergyman, lecturer, and author. Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, writings, biographical material, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Talmage's work as a clergyman and author.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Alexander III, Emperor of Russia, 1845-1894--Interviews.

Talmage, Eleanor McCutcheon Collier, 1857 or 8-1902. T. De Witt Talmage As I Knew Him. 1912.

Talmage, Samuel K. (Samuel Kennedy), 1798-1865--Correspondence.

Talmage, T. De Witt (Thomas De Witt), 1832-1902.

Talmage, T. De Witt (Thomas De Witt), 1832-1902. T. De Witt Talmage As I Knew Him. 1912.

Organizations

Brooklyn Tabernacle (New York, N.Y.)

Central Presbyterian Church (New York, N.Y.)

Subjects

Presbyterian Church--New York (State)--New York.

Voyages around the world.

Places

Palestine--Description and travel.

Russia--Description and travel.

Occupations

Authors.

Clergy.

Lecturers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of T. De Witt Talmage, Presbyterian clergyman, lecturer, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Carlton J. Corliss in 1955.

Processing History

The papers of T. De Witt Talmage were arranged and described in 1957. The collection was expanded and revised in 2011.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs and engravings have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Books have been transferred to the general collections. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Talmage Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas De Witt Talmage is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of T. De Witt Talmage are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, T. De Witt Talmage Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1832, Jan. 7	Born, Bound Brook, N.J.
1850-1853	Attended University of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
1856	Graduated, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Brunswick, N.J.
1856	Married Mary R. Avery (died 1862)
1856-1859	Pastor, Reformed Church, Belleville, N.J.
1859-1862	Pastor, First Reformed Church, Syracuse, N.Y.
1862	A.M., University of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
1862-1869	Pastor, Second Reformed Dutch Church, Philadelphia, Pa.
1863	Married Susan Curtiss Whittemore (died 1895)
1869-1894	Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1873-1876	Editor, <i>Christian at Work</i>
1877-1879	Editor, <i>Advance</i>
1879-1889	Editor, <i>Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine</i>
1889-1890	Trip to the Holy Land
1890-1902	Editor, <i>Christian Herald</i>
1894	Trip around the world
1895-1902	Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.
1898	Married Eleanor McCutcheon Collier (died 1902)

1902, Apr. 12

Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas De Witt Talmage (1832-1902) span the years 1831-1902 and consist of correspondence, diaries, notebooks, minutes, sermons, lectures, autobiographical material, scrapbooks, clippings, and other printed matter. The collection is organized into four series: [Correspondence](#); [Diaries, Notebooks, and Minutes](#); [Writings](#); [Printed Matter and Miscellany](#).

The correspondence of letters sent and received includes a small file of correspondence belonging to his uncle, Samuel K. Talmage (1831-1851), letters pertaining to the twenty-fifth anniversary of T. De Witt Talmage's pastorate at the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York; and contracts for his lecture tours and church appointments.

Although the notebooks contain mostly ideas for sermons and lectures, there are five pertaining to his trip to the Holy Land, 1889-1890, and eight concerning his trip around the world in 1894. Included is a notebook containing the Minutes of the Session of the Central Presbyterian Church, later the Brooklyn Tabernacle, for the years 1847-1871.

The collection includes numerous sermons and sermon fragments and many lectures by Talmage covering the years 1866-1893. A majority of these sermons is included in a twenty-volume collection, *500 Selected Sermons* (New York: Bible House, 1900).

Talmage's autobiography, *T. De Witt Talmage as I Knew Him* (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, 1912), is written on loose sheets and in notebooks; included are the final chapters written by his wife, Eleanor McCutcheon Collier Talmage.

The scrapbook file consists of printed copies of Talmage's sermons. Clippings from newspapers and magazines contain articles by or about Talmage.

The collection also includes miscellaneous articles by Talmage; letters and talks written during his trip around the world, including an interview with Alexander III, Emperor of Russia; texts and indices of his sermons; as well as family photographs.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1831-1902](#)
- [Diaries and Notebooks, 1865-1900](#)
- [Writings](#)
- [Printed Matter and Miscellany](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Correspondence, 1831-1902

Personal correspondence of T. De Witt Talmage and of Samuel K. Talmage. Also correspondence about the twenty-fifth anniversary of T. De Witt Talmage's pastorate at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, contracts of lecture tours, and church appointments signed by Talmage.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 2-6

Diaries and Notebooks, 1865-1900

Diaries, including of a visit to the Holy Land and trip around the world; minutes of the Session, Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and notebooks. Diaries are lacking for 1866, 1870-1872, 1875, 1879, 1883, 1891, 1894, 1898-1899.
Grouped by type of material. The diaries are arranged chronologically.

BOX 7-26

Writings

Drafts, fragments, and printed copies of sermons; lectures; drafts of Talmage's autobiography, with the concluding chapters by his wife; and speeches and articles by Talmage.
Drafts of sermons are arranged alphabetically by title. Lectures are arranged chronologically.
Printed sermons, sermon fragments, and a file of speeches and articles are unarranged.

BOX 27-33

Printed Matter and Miscellany

Bound and unbound newspaper clippings of articles by and about Talmage. Also miscellaneous pamphlets and photographs.
Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1831-1902 Personal correspondence of T. De Witt Talmage and of Samuel K. Talmage. Also correspondence about the twenty-fifth anniversary of T. De Witt Talmage's pastorate at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, contracts of lecture tours, and church appointments signed by Talmage. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1831-1902
BOX 2-6	Diaries and Notebooks, 1865-1900 Diaries, including of a visit to the Holy Land and trip around the world; minutes of the Session, Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and notebooks. Diaries are lacking for 1866, 1870-1872, 1875, 1879, 1883, 1891, 1894, 1898-1899. Grouped by type of material. The diaries are arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	Diaries, 1865-1900
BOX 3	Diaries, Holy Land, 1890; trip around the world, 1894
BOX 4	Minutes of the Session, Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1847-1871
BOX 5-6	Notebooks
BOX 7-26	Writings Drafts, fragments, and printed copies of sermons; lectures; drafts of Talmage's autobiography, with the concluding chapters by his wife; and speeches and articles by Talmage. Drafts of sermons are arranged alphabetically by title. Lectures are arranged chronologically. Printed sermons, sermon fragments, and a file of speeches and articles are unarranged.
BOX 7	Sermons
BOX 7	A-F
BOX 8	G-O
BOX 9	P-Tha
BOX 10	The-Z
BOX 11-12	Unsorted
BOX 13-18	Fragments
BOX 19	Lectures
BOX 19	1866-1881
BOX 20	1882-1884
BOX 21	1885-1886
BOX 22	1887-1891
BOX 23	1892-1893
BOX 24	Undated
BOX 25	Autobiography, including final chapters by Eleanor McCutcheon Collier Talmage

Writings

Container

Contents

BOX 26

Speech and article file

BOX 27-33

Printed Matter and Miscellany

Bound and unbound newspaper clippings of articles by and about Talmage. Also miscellaneous pamphlets and photographs.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 27-28

Scrapbooks

BOX 29-33

Clippings